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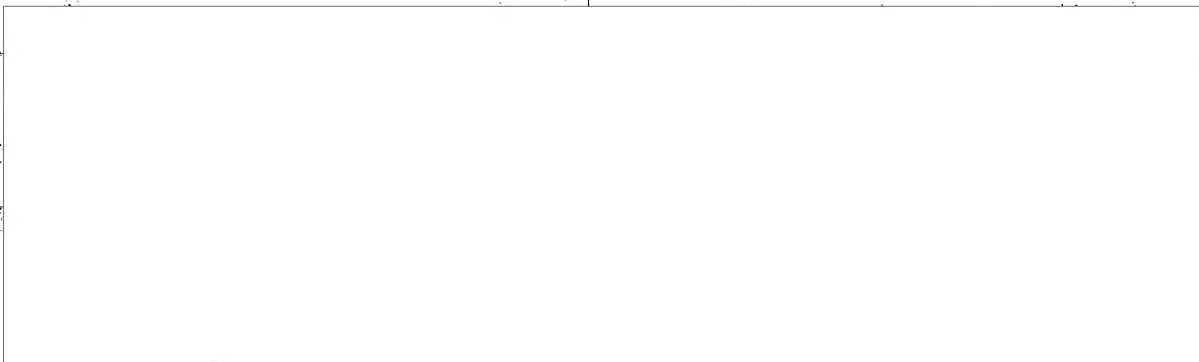
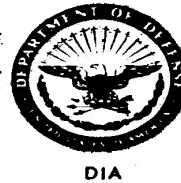
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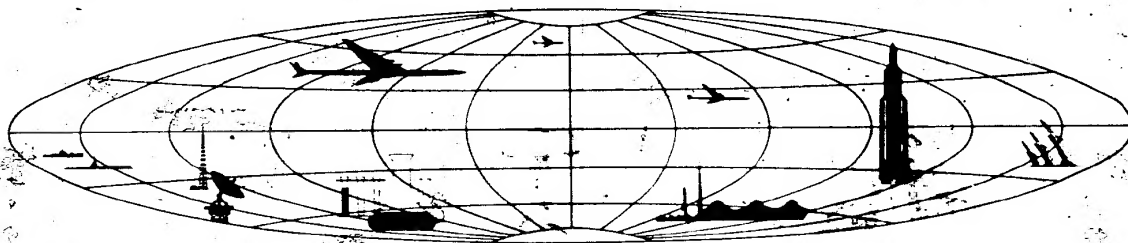
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NPIC/R-403/64
June 1964

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

LAUNCH AREA B PLESETSK ICBM COMPLEX, USSR



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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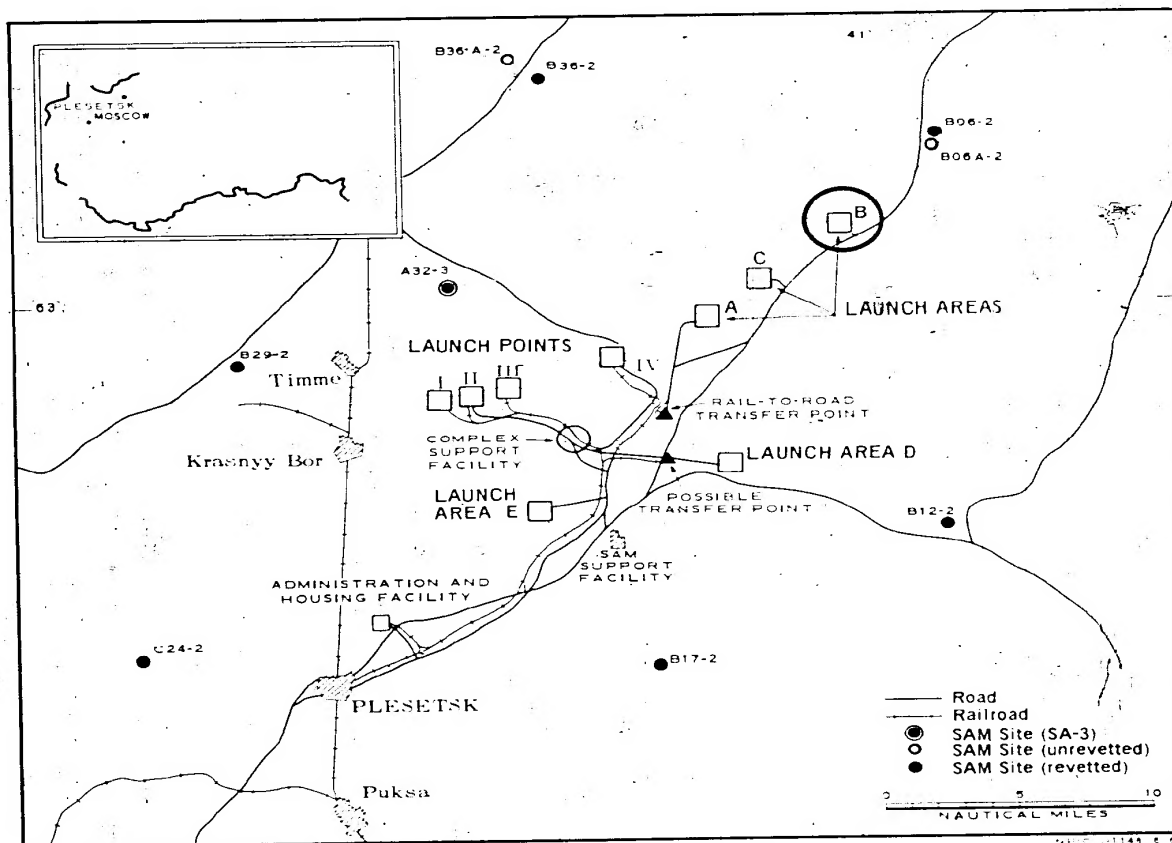


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF LAUNCH AREA B.

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INTRODUCTION

KH-7 photography of April 1964 (KEYHOLE Mission 4007) over Launch Area B (5)* of Plesetsk ICBM Complex made possible the identification of features not previously observed on small-scale, KH-4 coverage. These include 22 towers (including 4 possibles), 2 launch platforms, 2 missile transporters, a triple inner security fence around the launch site and a single security fence at the site support facility, 3 semiburied probable tanks within the launch site and 2 earth-mounded possible tanks at the site support facility, a possible steamline servicing most elements of the launch site, 3 large center buildings now identified as probable vehicle sheds [REDACTED]

Launch Area B [REDACTED] which was among the first of the Type IIB sites to be

deployed, is unique in having a completed possible technical section similar to that observed at Plesetsk Launch Area A (4)*, a Type IIA site. It is interesting to note in this connection that similar facilities now appear to be under construction at Verkhnyaya Salda Launch Area E (5)* and Drovyanaya Launch Area A (1)*.

Launch Area B (63-03N 40-58E, Figure 1) consists of a completed Type IIB launch site (Figures 2 and 3) and a site support facility (Figures 4 and 5). It is located in a sparsely wooded area on the south bank of the Yemtsa River, 12.5 nautical miles (nm) northeast of the complex support facility. Activity in the area was first observed through heavy cloud cover in June 1961 [REDACTED] and the site was considered complete by April 1962 [REDACTED]

*TDI site designators are indicated in parentheses.

LAUNCH SITE

SECURITY

Site security consists of an outer security fence and a closely spaced, triple inner security fence. Midway between the outer fence and the triple inner fence is a well-defined patrol path. There is a probable guardhouse immediately outside the fenced area. No guard towers can be distinguished.

PADS

Each elongated pad has its central part marked off by a square trace within which a circular trace is centered around the launch platform. The purpose of these markings has

not been determined. On at least one mission the square trace was visible on a snow-covered pad. On occasion it is not visible, or a part may be obscured or missing. Its height, if any, is not determinable.

An erector is present at the rear of each launch platform and appears to be of the same height and width as the platform. The outline of the erector appears rectangular, with protuberances along the center of the left side and at the rear. The right pad has a mottled appearance. A very tall steel lattice tower is placed on each side of each pad so that a line connecting them passes through or very near to the launch plat-

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forms. The inboard tower at the right pad is positioned closer to the pad than the other three.

Two very small buildings are adjacent to each pad.



FIGURE 2. LAUNCH SITE.

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MISSILE-READY BUILDINGS

The left missile-ready building is 875 feet behind the left pad. It is earth banked and canted outward about 10 degrees from the long axis of the pad.

The right missile-ready building is 925 feet behind the right pad. It is earth banked and in-line. A missile transporter is standing on the apron in front of each missile-ready building, and the apron in front of the left ready building has a mottled appearance.

CENTER BUILDINGS

To the left of the center service road, which is offset to the right, are a control bunker and three large buildings (one earth banked; apparently used to house vehicles. The control bunker has one personnel entrance facing toward the right pad, and another toward the forward end of the site; there are several very small unidentified objects on top of the bunker and at the south end. A medium-sized building and one very small object are situated on the right side of the service road. At the forward end of the service road, on the left side, are three semiburied probable tanks.

MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS

Immediately behind and outboard of each pad is a relatively small, narrow earth-mounded building with a personnel entrance in front. In addition, an earth-mounded building is next to the wing building at the right pad. To the rear of these is a group of one small and two very small, probable buildings. One other small structure is inside the gate near the road. Near the probable guardhouse and outside the fence is a medium-sized building with a tall, slender stack. Also outside the fence is a small area enclosed by a board fence which contains two very small buildings and several unidentified objects.

OTHER EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

In addition to the very tall towers which flank each pad, a total of ~~15~~ more towers (including 4 possibles) of varying heights were noted within the site. Three are at the left ready building and 2 are at the earth-banked building nearby; 3 are near the left pad and 3 are in the general vicinity of the right pad; 4 are near one center building and one is at the control bunker; and 2 are at the right ready building.

A trace of melted snow indicating a possible underground steamline originates near a heating plant within the site support facility, and apparently services most of the buildings within the site. Snow melt also indicates that the possible steamline may be laid along the cableway between the pads, which has a concrete walkway.

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SITE SUPPORT FACILITY

The site support facility is located 4,000 feet south-southwest of the launch site and consists of an administration and housing section and a possible technical section. A single se-

curity fence encompasses the latter and part of the former, and divides them one from another. The whole facility is served by an excellent road network.



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The possible technical section has a heating plant and probable guardhouse, 2 earth-mounded possible tanks, 6 large buildings fronting on wide aprons, and 4 small buildings. One of the small buildings, in the southeast corner, is separately secured. Another separately secured area lies within a long, narrow extension of the security fence on the south side.

Within the fenced portion of the administra-

tion and housing section are 5 barracks, 3 buildings which probably contain apartment housing, a probable administration building, and 9 administrative support buildings. Outside the fence are 3 and possibly 4 barracks, 5 miscellaneous buildings, another building some distance from the rest and served by a loop road, and 5 abandoned building foundations.

REFERENCES

MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0102-9AL, 2d ed, Dec 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

NPIC. *ICBM Complex, Plesetsk, USSR*, May 64 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

REQUIREMENT

UGMC-64

NPIC PROJECT

N-539-64

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